

What is claimed is:

1. A ceramic material obtained by a method comprising steps of mixing defatted bran derived from rice bran with a thermosetting resin before kneading, subjecting a kneaded mixture thus obtained to a primary firing in an inert gas at a temperature in a range of 700 to 1000°C, pulverizing the kneaded mixture after the primary firing into carbonized powders, kneading the carbonized powders with which ceramic powders, a solvent, and a binder as desired are mixed into a plastic workpiece (kneaded mass), pressure-forming the plastic workpiece at pressure in a range of 10 to 100 MPa, and subjecting a formed plastic workpiece thus obtained again to firing in an inert gas atmosphere at a temperature in a range of 100 to 1400°C.

2. A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic powders are one kind of, or not less than two kinds of ceramic powders composed of any selected from the group consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiC}$ ,  $\text{BN}$ ,  $\text{WC}$ ,  $\text{TiC}$ , Sialon (Si-Al-O-N based compound solid solution), porcelain clay, feldspathic clay, and kaolinite.

sub A, > 3. A ceramic material according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the thermosetting resin is one kind of, or not less than two kinds of resins selected from the group consisting of phenol resin, diaryl phthalate resin, unsaturated polyester resin, epoxy resin, polyimide resin, and triazine resin.

4. A ceramic material according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the binder is an organic binder and / or an inorganic binder.

5. A ceramic material according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a mixing ratio of the defatted bran to the thermosetting resin is 50 to 90 : 50 to 10 by weight.

6. A ceramic material according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein a mixing ratio of the carbonized powders to the ceramic powders is 5 to 95 : 95 to 5 by weight.

7. A ceramic material according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a grain size of the carbonized powders is in a range of 10 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. A formed sintered tile, wherein the ceramic material as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 7 is formed in the shape of a square or rectangular sheet.

9. A formed sintered flooring, wherein the ceramic material as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 7 is formed in the shape of a square or rectangular sheet.

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